

Message Text

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S/S- MR. HOGANSON

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 077283

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, TU, GR

SUBJECT: ALLEGED TURKISH PROVOCATIONS OVER GREEK ISLANDS

REF: (A) ATHENS 2603 (B) ATHENS 2606 (C) ATHENS 2614

(D) ANKARA 2695

1. WE DO NOT BELIEVE A FORMAL DEMARCHE RE ALLEGED TURKISH FLIGHTS OVER GREEK ISLANDS SHOULD BE MADE TO NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT UNTIL IT HAS RECEIVED A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE. HOWEVER, TO PREPARE FOR LATER DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH GOVERNMENTS, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE EMBASSIES ANKARA AND ATHENS ASSESSMENTS OF WHAT IS TAKING PLACE IN AEGEAN AREA, WHY, AND WHAT WE CAN BEST DO AT THIS TIME TO REDUCE TENSIONS.

2. GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS MADE PARTICULAR POINT OF KEEPING USG INFORMED RE TURKISH OVERFLIGHTS, WITHOUT ASKING FOR SPECIFIC ACTION ON OUR PART. IF FURTHER SUCH APPROACHES ARE MADE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER GREEKS RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS AN OBVIOUS CONNECTION BETWEEN THEIR MILITARY REINFORCEMENTS OF ISLANDS AND TURKISH OVERFLIGHTS WHICH ARE PRESUMABLY TO OBTAIN INFORMATION

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RE GREEK MILITARY DISPOSITIONS IN CONTRAVENTION OF TREAT-

IES OF LAUSANNE AND PARIS (E.G. TDFIR314/01839-75 SECRET
NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION REFERS TO 19 GREEK MILITARY
TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT BEARING 500 COMMANDOESFLYING TO
ISLANDS OF LIMNOS, LESVOS AND SAMOS LAST WEEKEND).

3. IF ISSUE COMES UP IN CONVERSATION IN ANKARA WE SUPPORT
AMBASSADOR MACOMBER'S SUGGESTION (REFTEL D) THAT HE URGE
TURKS TO FIND LESS PROVOCATIVE MEANS OF OBTAINING INFO RE
GREEK FORCES. FURTHERMORE, IN BOTH ATHENS AND ANKARA
IT CAN BE STRESSED THAT THE BEST WAY TO REDUCE TENSION
AND OBTAIN CLARIFICATION OF EACH OTHER'S INTENTIONS
WOULD BE THROUGH A GREEK-TURKISH DIALOGUE OF TYPE EN-
VISAGED IN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO MEET AT FONMIN LEVEL
TO DISCUSS AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF ISSUE. AS APPRO-
PRIATE BOTH EMBASSY'S SHOULD OF COURSE CONTINUE TO COUNSEL
RESTRAINT, WHICH WOULD APPLY TO GREEK REINFORCEMENT OF
ISLANDS AS WELL AS TO TURKISH OVERFLIGHTS. INGERSOLL

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